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Page(s): Page 247, Page 248, Page 249, Page 250, Page 251, Page 252, Page 253, Page 254, Page 255

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Exchanged.

The Athenæum, Nos. 1047—1051 to 53.

Journal of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, Vol. VI. Part II.

The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, Nos. 210-11.

Purchased.

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Nos. 135--36.

Journal des Savants, Oct. 1847.

Comptes Rendus des Seances de l'Academie des Sciences, Tome XXV. Nos. 17—21.

Donation to the Museum of Antiquities.

A Nepalese Sword.—By SAMUEL WRIGHT, Esq.

Certified to be a true Report,

JAMES W. COLVILLE, *President.*

W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, *Secretary.*

*Report of Curator Zoological Department.**

The following are the presentations I have to record this evening :—

1. Sir W. Jardine, Bt. A small collection of British mammalia and birds, comprising a very fine example of the rare British Wild Cat (*Felis catus*, L., as currently assigned, v. *F. sylvestris*, Aldrovand), procured in Inverness-shire ; —also two Alpine Hares,—specimens of *Arvicola glareola*, (Schreb., v. *riparia*, Yarrell, &c.),—a fine cock Pheasant,—some Black and Red Grouse,—and sundry small birds. On comparison of the Cat with the imperfect skin from Afghanistan noticed in XIV, 342, XV, 169, the latter differs in having shorter fur, of a more fulvescent hue, especially on the under-parts and limbs, with the markings more broken into spots, though still tending to form irregular obliquely transverse stripes ; the tail, also, if perfect, would seem to be tapering (as in the domestic Cat), and has its black tip less developed. The two are, however, very closely allied, and both may have, at least partly, contributed to the origin of the domestic Cats of their respective regions. The fine Scottish specimen before the Meeting, recalls vividly to mind the figure and expression of a large European male Cat, as distinguished from the more slimly formed domestic animal of this country, which (as I have been informed on good authority) occasionally interbreeds with the common wild *F. chaus*. Mr. Walter Elliot, again, informs me that he has known the wild *F. rubiginosa* of the Coromandel coast to interbreed with the domestic

* Presented at the February meeting.

Cat; and that a brood of semi-wild hybrids thus produced occasioned him at one time much inconvenience. In connexion with these facts, we cannot but observe the remarkable coincidence of the defective tail of the wild Malayan *F. planiceps*, and of the domestic Cats of the same countries (vide XV, 245).*

* It is probable that this variation likewise occurs in the very nearly allied, but considerably larger, *F. Temminckii* of the Malayan peninsula, &c.; from which it does not appear that *F. moormensis* of Nepal and Sikim differs in any respect. I have examined specimens of both, the former from Malacca, the latter from Sikim, but have never had the opportunity of actually comparing them together.

On the subject of *Canine* hybrids, there is an interesting paper, as recording some *observed facts*, in the 'Calcutta Sporting Review' for December 1847; but the writer makes a great mistake in supposing that the rufous 'Wild Dog' (so called) of India and the Malay countries—*C. rutilus*, v. *Cuon primævus*, &c. &c.—has contributed largely to the origin of domestic Dogs, as not a single variety of the latter is known to want the second true molar in the lower jaw, as in the wild species referred to; and he falls into a still greater error in supposing that the *Hyæna* could interbreed with any *Canine*, its generative organs being on a different type, and the mode of copulation consequently not exhibiting the peculiarity observable in *Canis*. The dentition, too, is widely dissimilar; and other important diversities might be enumerated. The *affinity* of *Hyæna* is with the *Viverridæ*, and not with the *Canidæ*.

Some experiments which I have been trying with the hybrid race produced by the male *Gallus Sonneratii* and picked common hens, have hitherto led to opposite results to what have followed the intermixture of different Canines. The male hybrid was particularly salacious; yet though a great number of eggs have been produced by hens trodden by him, of the pure domestic fowl, as well as of his own hybrid race, not a single one has hatched, while other eggs placed with them produced chickens. I am now keeping the only remaining hybrid hen with a Burmese domestic cock, but very little removed from the wild *bankivus*; and she has already produced some more eggs. In the London Zoological Gardens, some ten years ago, was a brood of $\frac{3}{4}$ bred birds between the English Pheasant and common Fowl, these being $\frac{1}{4}$ Pheasant: and if this be possible, surely two different species of true *Gallus* ought to produce fertile hybrids, at least with either parent race, if not *per se et inter se*. While on the subject of hybrids, I may here notice that my friend, C. S. Bonnevie, Esq. of Rungpore, some time ago presented me with a living specimen bred between the male Guinea-fowl and common hen, which is now preserved in the Society's Museum. Two other hybrids thus produced have since been described in the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' for Sept. 29, 1846, p. 101. The Society's bird is almost wholly white, but a few coloured feathers it has show no trace of the Guinea-fowl spots, observable in those described by Dr. Morton: the bill and feet of the specimen, however, and its voice and carriage when alive, partook very much of the Guinea-fowl: it has no trace of comb, nor of the Guinea-fowl bony knob, and but very slight wattles depending from the angle of the gape. The most curious bird hybrid I have seen was one bred in the Garden of the Zoological Society, between the *Chenalopex ægyptiacus* and that singular variety of domestic Duck common at Manilla, which is known as the "Penguin Duck."

2. The Rev. F. Mason, Maulmain. Two packages, by successive arrivals of the steamer, containing a number of flat skins of birds. Among them is the *Crypsirina varians* (v. *Phrenotrix temia*, Horsfield), which would seem to be of common occurrence in the Tenasserim provinces, where its presence was first remarked by the late Dr. Helfer. Also a new species of Shrike, which our taxidermists have fortunately been able to set up, and which may be thus described:—

Lanius hypoleucos, nobis. Very closely allied to *L. Hardwickii*, Vigors; from which it differs—1, in having the entire crown nigrescent, passing gradually from the black of the forehead to dark ashy on the nape; the ear-coverts being uniformly coloured with the feathers superiorly adjacent:—2, in having the rump and upper tail-coverts of the same deep maroon colour as the back and scapularies:—3, in the much greater development of the ferruginous margins of the great wing-coverts and tertiaries:—and 4, in having the underparts uniformly white, a little subdued, and tinged with a very faint blush, but having no trace of rufous on the flanks and elsewhere.

Lanius
columiside
def.

3. R. Templeton, Esq. M. D., Colombo, through W. Elliot, Esq. Madras. Two living Monkeys, viz. a young male of *Macacus sinicus*, Desm. (v. *pileatus*, Lesson), and a young female of *Presbytis cephalopterus*, (Zimm.), of the normal colouring. Pl.—represents three varieties of colour of the last named species, with a figure of the allied *Pr. Johnii* of the Nilgherries, in the distance.*

4. Walter Elliot, Esq. Madras. A living specimen of a Cat, for inspection; and a stuffed Dolphin procured in the Bay of Bengal. The former is of the species described by Mr. Elliot, as the *Wagati* of the Mahrattas of the Ghâts, in the 'Madras Journal of Literature and Science,' X, 108, and since termed *Leopardus Elliotti* by Mr. Gray, who identifies it with *Felis nipalensis*, Hodgson. Of this, which I regard as *F. bengalensis*, Pennant, the Society's museum contains a fine series; and I consider Mr. Elliot's animal to be decidedly of the same

* The *Pr. thersites*, described in my Report for last November (XVI, 1271), inhabits the low country of the northern half of Ceylon, and is therefore probably distinct from the very large Monkey, of a dark colour, which Major Forbes remarked "at Newerra Elia, and scattered over the colder parts of the island." The adult male of *Pr. thersites* sent by Dr. Templeton was savage or rather uncertain in its temper for some time after its arrival; but to myself and others he knows, he is now quite gentle and extremely fond of being caressed. This has enabled me to examine him more particularly; and I find that he has not the radiating centre of hair above the brows, observable in the other *Entelloid* Indian Monkeys, while the hair of the crown is particularly dense and *touffu*, though without rising into a crest. His coat generally is dense and somewhat peculiar; very unlike that of *Pr. entellus*, but approaching that of *Pr. anchises* of the central table-land of the peninsula. Fig. 3 of Pl.—, with outstretched legs, represents a very characteristic attitude of *Pr. cephalopterus*; and fig. 1 exhibits the normal colouring of the species.

species, and its spots (of a somewhat bolder pattern than occurs in the generality of the species from the sub-Himalayan region, Assam, Sylhet, and Arracan,) are more filled out with black than I remember to have seen before: but I can detect no further difference. It would be of some interest to obtain this species (or its representative) in the Tenasserim provinces; in order to observe whether it graded into *F. javanensis* of the Malayan peninsula, which is considered the same by M. Temminck who unites them under the name *F. minuta*, in which he is followed by Dr. Schlegel and others.

The Dolphin, which Mr. Elliot inclines to regard as a new species, and terms *Delphinus perniger*, approaches very closely in size and proportions to *D. hastatus*, F. Cuv., *Hist. des Cétacés*, p. 161, and to which this author refers the *Grampus Heavisidii* of Gray; but there is no trace of the peculiar markings of the under-parts which distinguish the Cape species referred to. Mr. Elliot, describing the fresh animal (as I presume), mentions it to be "uniform shining black above, blackish beneath. It has a series of 26 teeth on each side, above and below; conical, obtuse, and slightly curved inwards." The animal is well stuffed; and now measures 5 ft. 4 in. in total length (to middle of tail), the beak (to frontal elevation) 4 in.; dorsal fin situate posteriorly to the middle of the body, commencing at a distance of $29\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the tip of the beak; length of its upper margin (in the dry specimen) $10\frac{1}{4}$ in., and height about 6 in.; length of the flipper 10 in., and extreme breadth 4 in.; spread of the tail-flukes $14\frac{1}{2}$ in., and these are divided apart to a depth of $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.; beyond this division, a very distinct ridge or keel is continued for about 1 ft., attaining a maximum elevation of about $\frac{5}{8}$ in. These are about all the specific distinctions that can be drawn from the dry specimen.

5. Capt. Scholefield, of the Schooner "Sydney." A dead female *Ursus malayanus*, from Java. Perfectly identical, as a species, with specimens from Assam, Tenasserim, &c.; but the individual remarkable for two great black patches occupying much of the right side of its U-like mark on the chest, and for numerous small spots spread over the remainder of the same mark. It has been set up as a stuffed specimen.

6. From the Barrackpore menagerie. A very fine dead specimen of *Phasianus torquatus*, mas.

7. Mr. Geoffrey Finch. A living albino of the common larger Mongoose of Bengal (*Mangusta grisea*).*

8. L. Manley, Esq. A dead African Finch, in perfect plumage, the *Crithagra chrysopogon*, Swainson, v. *Fringilla butyracea*, var., Latham. Though in the ordinary full plumage of the male bird, this specimen proved, upon examination, to be a female.

* Since dead, and mounted in the Museum.

9. Mr. J. H. Howell, of the Pilot Service. Some fine specimens of water-snakes, and a few fishes, procured at the Sandheads.

10. Mr. J. T. Babanau. Two fœtuses of the wild Sow.

11. Mr. E. Lindstedt. A collection of several species of Snakes, from Malacca.

12. Baboo Rajendro Mullick. Two specimens of *Strix flammea*, and a dead white Guinea-fowl: the latter, however common in Europe, is held in some estimation by the native gentlemen who keep collections of living animals.

13. Mr. C. Bell, of the Preventive Service. A dead King Parrot (*Aprosmictus scapulatus*).

14. Mr. W. E. Templeton, Assistant in the Museum. A specimen of the American *Gallinula (?) martinica*, (L.)

15. R. W. G. Frith, Esq. A dead English common hen, with large spurs; also the skin of a very interesting species of *Rhinolophine* Bat, which I can only classify as a new generic form, by the name

Cælops, nobis. General character of *Rhinolophus* and *Hipposideros*, but the tail and *calcanea* wanting, and the inter-crural membrane acutely emarginated to the depth of an even line with the knees. Ears delicate, large, broad, and rounded; continued round to the front, without a trace of emargination separating an *anti-helix*. Facial pit surmounted by a small field, divided by a raised medial line, and above this projects a small crest of membrane, having an abruptly rising, obtusely bifid tip, which is bent forward: behind this membrane, a minute pencil of hairs indicates the position of the sac observable in *Hipposideros*: each nostril is surrounded by a slight fringe of membrane; and a broader fringe borders the facial cavity in front, impending the upper lip; but the sides of the facial cavity are densely fringed with hair only; and the fur is long and dense upon the forehead. The teeth cannot be examined without sacrificing the unique specimen. The proportions of the wings, and the development of the ante-brachial membrane, are the same as in *Nycteris*. The fur is long, and delicately fine, as in true *Rhinolophus*.

C. Frithii, nobis. Length, from nose to rump, about $1\frac{3}{8}$ in.; of the middle of the inter-crural membrane but $\frac{1}{4}$ in.; head $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; ears posteriorly $\frac{1}{2}$ in., or somewhat less; fore-arm $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.; shank $\frac{1}{16}$ in.; foot with claws $\frac{3}{8}$ in.; longest finger $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Colour dusky or blackish, the fur tipped with dull ashy-brown above, and with paler and somewhat albescent ashy below: the membranes fuscous. Inhabits the Soonderbuns of Lower Bengal.

It is somewhat remarkable that I have not yet succeeded in obtaining a single fresh specimen of a *Rhinolophus* or *Hipposideros* in Lower Bengal; and the only additional Indian species I know of, to those enumerated in XIII, 480 *et seq.*, is a *Hipposideros* thus described to me by Dr. Templeton of Ceylon, together with a notice of a species according very well with *H. speoris*.

Hipposideros ater, Templeton. "Resembles the other" (*speoris*?) "in every thing but size and colour. The back is coal-black, the hair near the body dark silvery-grey; belly greyish-black; the membrane deep black: tail one-half longer than the femora, its tip exserted. Length $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{9}{10}$ in.; expanse 10 to $10\frac{3}{4}$ in.; tail 7 to 8 in. Common in old buildings about Colombo."

Among the gatherings of the past month, may be noticed particularly two remarkably fine specimens, male and female, of half-grown Orang-utans, picked up (when but just dead) after having been thrown away into the streets. These have been stuffed, and now replace the specimens of corresponding age, but not nearly in such fine condition, that we possessed previously.

Also a new wading bird, of the genus *Macrorhamphus*, a skin of which Mr. Jerdon sent me, upon loan, to describe some time ago, but of which I had not hitherto published the memorandum I took of it. The following is from the fresh specimen obtained in the Calcutta bazar, and Mr. Jerdon has only procured one individual.

M. semipalmatus, Jerdon. Larger than *M. griseus*, with the three anterior toes connected at base by membranes, of which the inner is equally developed with that connecting the middle and outer toes of *Himantopus candidus* and *H. leucocephalus*, the outer being rather more so. Bill exactly as in *Scolopax*; its terminal fifth smooth and tumid in the living bird, becoming shrunken and papillose soon after death. Length 13 in., of which the bill to forehead measures $2\frac{7}{8}$ in.; expanse of wings 21 in.; closed wing $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; tail $2\frac{1}{8}$ in.; tarse $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.; middle toe and nail $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; hind-toe and nail $\frac{9}{16}$ in. Bill dusky, dull carneous towards the base of the lower mandible; legs and toes lead-coloured. Winter plumage ashy-brown above, with whitish-grey margins to the feathers; crown and lores dusky, the feathers but slightly margined paler; and divided apart by a whitish supercilium: throat, neck, and breast, somewhat indistinctly pencilled with a zigzag subterminal dusky marking on each feather, on a dull white ground; increasing to three or four dusky bars on those of the flanks and on the lower tail-coverts: belly and vent white: rump and upper tail-coverts white, banded with dusky-black: tail-feathers also banded with dusky-black, the dark bars being broader than the white ground: in the uropygials, or middle pair of tail-feathers, the white disappears on the inner web, and is reduced to a series of spots on the outer; the primaries and their coverts, and the winglet, are dusky; the shorter primaries, to a partial extent, and the secondaries and their coverts, being edged with white: the first primary a little exceeds the second in length, and has the usual stout and conspicuously white stem: under-surface of the wing chiefly white, except along its anterior borders.

This bird is probably a sea-side species, like its chiefly American congener; which would account for its being so rarely brought to the Calcutta bazar, among

the heaps of small waders that appear there daily for more than half the year. In like manner *Numenius phæopus*, and *Streptilas interpres*, are very rarely brought, and I have never yet obtained there the common *Hæmatopus* of the shores of the Bay, nor *Calidris arenaria* (which has at least once been procured by Mr. Jerdon). Three other species that I have respectively obtained only once, are *Vanellus* (?) *leucurus*, *Tringa canutus* (which has once likewise been procured by Mr. Jerdon), and *Phalaropus lobatus*. The last was obtained on the 11th May, 1846; it was exceedingly emaciated, and had not commenced changing colour. The Woodcock I have obtained here twice, and have heard of other instances of its occurrence. During the present cold season, I have procured for the first time *Podiceps cristatus*, L., which I am informed is not rare in the Soonderbuns:* and I have once only procured the beautiful *Anas formosa*, Gm., (v. *glocitans*, &c., nec *bimaculata*). The Mallard (*Anas boschas*) never, nor has it been met with in the peninsula of India, though occurring up the country. The same holds with *Vanellus cristatus*, and one or two other species. In the peninsula of India, Mr. Jerdon has once only procured the Australian *Hiaticula nigrifrons*, which he has described by the name *Charadrius russatus*.† Another Grallatorial bird discovered by Mr. Jerdon, which I may

* The excessively rude fowling-pieces used by the bazar shikarrees are little calculated for hitting such wary and rapid divers as the Crested Grebe.

† Among the land-birds, one or two stragglers, chiefly from the hills, have severally been here met with once: such are *Gecinus striolatus*, nobis, *G. chloropus*, Vieillot, *Cypselus micropus*, nobis, *Tephrodornis grisola*, nobis (a Malayan species), *Monticola cinclorhyncha*, (Vig.), and *Calliope cyana*, (Hodgson). Other chiefly hill species on two or three occasions only; as *Chrysocolaptes sultaneus*, (Hodg.), *Accipiter fringillarius*, *Acc. virgatus* (v. *besra*), *Falco perigrinator*, *F. severus*, *F. subbuteo*, and *Tinnunculus vespertinus*; *Oriolus cochinchinensis*; *Treron nipalensis*, *Tr. chlorigaster* (the S. Indian representative of the common *Tr. phænicopterus* of N. India, now and then met with, as is likewise the white-bellied *Amadina malacca*, similarly representing in S. India the *A. sinensis* of Bengal, &c.); *Brachyurus triostegus* (Sparrman, the *Pitta brachyura* apud Gould,) occasionally; and there are species of the *Phylloscopus* group which I have hitherto procured only once, as *Abrornis cantator*, (Tickell, v. *Abr. schisticeps*, Hodgson, apud G. R. Gray, nec apud nos, XIV, 592), *Phylloscopus indicus*, (Jerdon, v. *Ph. griseolus*, nobis, XVI, 443, as now identified by that gentleman), *Ph. javanicus*, (Horsf., v. *magnirostris*, nobis), and *Ph. nitidus* nobis, twice. And there are several species of birds which I have never yet obtained on the alluvium of the river, but which abound immediately this is quitted, and thence are distributed southward even to Ceylon. Vide my note on this subject, XVI, 117. Also certain mammalia, as *Sciurus tristriatus*, and sundry *Muridæ*.

Since the above was written, I have likewise obtained in Calcutta a fresh specimen of *Caprimulgus macrourus* (verus), Horsfield, common in Arracan, Tenasserim, Malacca, Java, and thence to the northern coast of Australia. In Bengal and northern India gener-

take this opportunity to describe, is of a form nearly allied to *Cursorius*, from which it differs chiefly in having a much more robust and shorter bill, and in the first primary being rather shorter than the second and third. The eye, also, would appear to be very much larger and more Plover-like—at least in the Indian species; but a second representative certainly exists in the *Cursorius chalconotus*, Tem., of Africa, the eye of which is however represented as being small in the coloured figure published by Messrs. Mitchell and G. R. Gray.

Macrotarsius bitorquatus, Jerdon. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ or 10 in., of wing $6\frac{3}{4}$ in., and tail 3 in.; bill to forehead $\frac{3}{4}$ in., and very nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in least vertical depth, about the middle; tarse $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; middle toe and nail $\frac{7}{8}$ in. Colour sandy-brown above, with a faint pink gloss; the dorsal feathers slightly margined with rusty-brown, and the wing-coverts more conspicuously with pale rufescent: crown of the head black, with rusty lateral margins to the feathers; a broad white supercilium, commencing with the lores, is continued round the occiput; and there is a less defined (but equally conspicuous) rufescent-white streak along the mesial line of the head; ear-coverts streaked dusky and ferruginous: throat white, with a broad rufous band below it; this is bordered by a narrow white semi-collar, continued to below the ear-coverts, and narrowly edged above and below with dusky; then follows a broad brown gorget, and finally another white collar, margined above and below with dusky; this again is succeeded by brown, forming an ill-defined band on the lower part of the breast; and the rest of the lower-parts are isabelline, with white upper and lower tail-coverts; primaries and their coverts black, the first two primaries largely and obliquely marked with white, which is reduced to a large subterminal spot on the inner web of the third primary, and a small analogous spot on the fourth: tail white at base, extending for two-thirds of the length of the exterior web of its outermost feather; the terminal half of the tail black, passing basally into brown, and all but the middle feathers having a small white spot at the extremity of their inner webs. Terminal half of the bill corneous and black, the basal half pale (probably yellow in the fresh bird), and the legs also pale. Inhabits the eastern Ghâts of the peninsula of India.

A natatorial bird that may be redescribed with advantage, is the African representative of the common “Brahminee Goose,” or “Ruddy Sheldrake” of authors, (*Casarca rutila*), of India.

Casarca cana, (Gm.) This bird is correctly described by Sonnerat as *l'Oie Sauvage à tête grise de la côte de Coromandel*: being thus mistaken for *C. rutila* of Asia, from which it is very obviously distinct, however closely allied. The male (judging the sex from analogy with that of *C. rutila*) has the head and ally, this species is replaced by the nearly allied *C. albonotatus*, Tickell: and in S. India and Ceylon by the equally allied *C. mahrattensis*, Sykes.

neck of a drab-brown colour; the lower part of the neck encircled by a ferruginous collar (in place of the black one of the male *C. rutila* when in full plumage); the neck below the collar, and the whole breast, are pale isabelline, abruptly contrasting with the ferruginous of the back and under-parts, which on the back is of a much deeper hue than in *C. rutila*; the abdominal patch is deep ferruginous—approaching to maronne—in both species, but the under tail-coverts are paler in *C. cana*, and the black on either side of them at base of *C. rutila*, is in *C. cana* replaced by dusky minutely freckled with whitish; this freckling is also seen on the inner scapularies and inter-scapularies of *C. cana*, and the tertiaries have their outer webs of a deep maronne colour—the wings being otherwise alike in the two species. Size and proportions also the same. The specimen of *C. cana* described was referred to *C. rutila* in VII, 581; and Mr. G. R. Gray, in his ‘Illustrated Genera of Birds,’ suggests the name as a synonyme of his *Bernicla inornata*, (King),—a very doubtful *Bernicla*, by the way, and which seems rather to pertain to the *Chenalopex*, *Casarca*, and *Tudorna* group; while Mr. Gould’s *B. jubata*, (Lath.), is as evidently allied to *Nettapus*. The present description will, I trust, establish *Casarca cana* as an undoubted species.

E. BLYTH.